

# **Coral Reef Fishery Management Stakeholder Survey Compiled During Workshop**

Prepared November 14, 2003

## **1. What is your impression of the condition of the coral reef fishery resources in the Main Hawaiian Islands?**

- Overall, depleted in entirety: living corals, seaweeds and fish. Not much living reef structures within densely populated areas.
- In a very sad state and declining as we talk and study, and hold meetings, etc. about it.
- Poor.
- Poor, especially in highly accessed areas.

## **2. If you were responsible for managing coral reefs in the Main Hawaiian Islands, what would you do to manage fisheries for the long-term health of the resources?**

- Ban gill nets.
- Impose severe fines for runoff/pollution violation of fishery regulations.
- Impose severe fines and incarceration for violations of fishing regulations.
- Look at “what is best” for the ecosystem and make rules according to that and implement the necessary protections at intervals around the island.
- Community education on “why” through schools and dissemination of fishing permits.
- Eliminate net fishing.
- Conduct stock assessment.
- Curtail sediment impacts from land development.
- Engaging the stakeholders.

## **3. What information needs to be collected to help managers make good decisions?**

- How many users are actively impacting coral reef biota – fisherman (pole, spear, net, collectors) to understand overall biota removal/destruction.
- There is already enough information. We need to act on what we already know.
- We cannot risk further destruction of the reefs hoping to satisfy everyone.
- Conduct a capacity study to determine the amount of usage that can be supported before the “crash” occurs.
- Best (fair and balanced) available data. Honest data build trusts and validates the process.

## **4. What do you think is the most important issue in managing Hawaii’s coral reef fisheries?**



- How many gill nets that indiscriminately kill fish and \_\_\_\_ life.
- Focusing on the health of reefs so they can support fish and invertebrates.
- Enforcement of the existing rules.
- Lack of harvest quotas.
- Stakeholder ownership of their responsibility in ensuring future generations the privilege of enjoying the coral reefs ecosystem.

## **5. What specific outcomes should we set as goals for management?**

- Ban gill nets.
- Education: signs on all beaches (i.e., do not step on living coral reefs, do not feed fish).
- No take law making.
- Stiffer penalties that go through the system quicker.
- More effective laws and better enforcement.
- Community empowerment to enforce laws.
- Obtaining commitment of ownership.

## **6a. What management measurement measures are working?**

- Banning net fishing.
- Endangered SPP protection.
- Those supported by the stakeholders.

## **6b. What management measurement measures are not working?**

- Need more enforcement officers before we need more management.
- Need strong judicial system that recognizes criminal and law-breaking acts.
- Creating more laws that cannot be enforced.
- Those without buy-in.

## **7. What role should fisherman play in managing coral reef fisheries?**

- Be *akamai* about each individual's impact on today's and tomorrow's resources.
- Focus on responsibility, not just how much can be taken. This requires a change in values and belief systems and may be a difficult task.
- Limiting our harvesting of animals that live in the reef.
- As equal part as all others users of the coral reefs.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Make enforcement training less rigorous so more people can do it.
- Enable lifeguards to enforce laws/rules – they really see what is going on.